

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy and cooperation shown in scheduling and conducting a telephone interview with the Applicant's undersigned representative on November 14, 2005. However, as of the date of filing this Response to the Final Office Action of July 8, 2005, the Applicant has not yet received a copy of the Interview Summary to summarize the substance of that telephone interview.

Regardless, reconsideration and allowance of pending Claims 1-33 are respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nordman (U.S. Patent 6,061,346; hereafter "Nordman") in view of Inoue, *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,510,153; hereafter "Inoue") has been maintained. The Applicant respectfully maintains its traversal to this rejection because the rejection fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, as set forth in MPEP §2143, which states, in part:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

Applying at least two of the above requirements to the rejected claims, the Applicant previously submitted that Nordman and Inoue, both singularly and in combination, fail to provide sufficient basis for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. In particular, with regard to independent Claims 1, 9, 12, and 21, neither reference provides any suggestion or motivation for the proposed combination, nor do references teach or suggest all of the features of the rejected claims.

For instance, the method of Claim 1 recites, in part:

assigning a network address to the wireless client,
wherein the network address has a lease period;
sending the assigned network address to the
wireless client prior to establishing a secure link...

The rejection asserts that these features are taught, respectively, by Nordman at col. 4, lines 13–22 and col. 7, line 53 – col. 8, line 5. The Applicant disagrees.

While Nordman, col. 4, lines 17 and 18 describes, “An IP address is allocated to the wireless host by the private IP network,” the Applicant again refers to the preceding description at col. 4, lines 4 – 17 to provide the cited description with its proper context:

When the wireless host requests access to the private IP network, communications are first authenticated at the wireless access network formed of the network infrastructure of the PLMN [public land mobile network]...The private IP network permits access to the wireless host if the wireless host identity provided thereto corresponds with the identity of a wireless host permitted to access the private IP network. (emphasis added by Applicant)

That is, Nordman does not teach “sending the assigned network address to the wireless client prior to establishing a secure link,” (emphasis added by Applicant) as recited in Claim 1. Rather, Nordman teaches that an IP address is allocated to the wireless host by the private IP network after an authentication procedure has been performed to confirm that communications are permitted by way of the wireless access network (Nordman, col. 4, lines 7–9). The description at col. 7, line 53 – col. 8, line 5 of Nordman, as cited in the rejection, further supports the Applicant’s point by stating, “because the IP address and DNS name is provided at the private IP network, the wireless host 32, when permitted access to the private IP network, becomes a virtual host of the network 14” (Nordman, col. 7, line 65 – col. 8, line 3).

Further, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the wireless access point is adapted to handle the secure link established by the wireless client. That is, a dynamic address assigned to a wireless client to establish a secure link may be further utilized by the wireless client to access clients via a wireless access point. Such feature is not taught or suggested, either expressly or inherently, by either of the cited references.

The Applicant further submits that Claims 2–8 and 31–33 are patentably distinguishable over the proposed combination of Nordman and Inoue for at least the reasons set forth above due to their dependency upon Claim 1.

Claims 9 and 17 were rejected for the same reasons as Claims 1 and 6. However, independent Claim 9 does not recite the same features as Claim 1. More particularly, the rejection does not address any of the specifically recited features of independent Claim 9. Therefore, without acquiescing to the characterization of the rejected claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that neither Nordman nor Inoue, either singularly or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of independent Claim 9 or corresponding dependent Claims 10, 11, 17, and 18.

Independent Claim 12 has been amended to recite the step of using the assigned address to communicate with clients via a wireless access point. Thus, an address assigned to a wireless client to establish a secure link may be further utilized by the wireless client to access clients via a wireless access point. Such feature is not taught or suggested, either expressly or inherently, by either of the cited references.

The Applicant submits that Claims 13–16, 19, and 20 are patentably distinguishable over the proposed combination of Nordman and Inoue for at least the reasons set forth above due to their dependency upon amended independent Claim 12.

Claims 21 and 26 were rejected for the same reasons as Claims 12 and 19. However, independent Claim 21 does not recite the same features as independent Claim 12. More particularly, the rejection does not address any of the specific features of independent Claim 21. Therefore, without acquiescing to the characterization of the rejected claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that neither Nordman nor Inoue, either singularly or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of independent Claim 21 or corresponding dependent Claims 22–30.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for any of the presently

rejected claims. Therefore the present rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

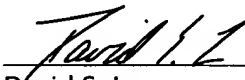
The remaining references of record have been studied. It is respectfully submitted that they do not compensate for the deficiencies of the cited references with respect to the rejected claims, even in view of the Response to Arguments submitted in the outstanding Office Action.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early and forthright issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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